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Kristy Brasfield Named 2021 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year

LITTLE ROCK — Kristy Brasfield, a teacher at Joe T. Robinson High School in the Pulaski County Special School District, has been named the 2021 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The institute, which provides educational programs and resources that focus on the knowledge and understanding of American history, recognizes one K-12 teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools, and U.S. territories each year. The 2021 National History Teacher of the Year will be named this fall.

"In addition to reading, history has always been one of my favorite subjects," Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key said. "I fondly remember the amazing history teachers I had as a student and their ability to make history come alive in the classroom. As the state History Teacher of the Year, Ms. Brasfield has set that example for the students in her classroom. They are fortunate to have her as a teacher, and I congratulate her on this honor."

Brasfield teaches U.S. History and English IV at Joe T. Robinson High School and previously taught AP and Pre-AP History in the Blytheville School District for eight years. She currently serves on the Arkansas Council for the Social Studies Board, the Rho Kappa Advisory Council, and the National Constitution Center's Teacher Advisory Council.

Brasfield previously was named the 2019 Arkansas Council for the Social Studies 9-12 Teacher of the Year and the 2016 Rotary Educator of the Year. She has a Bachelor of Science in Education in Social Science, a Master of Science in Education in Education Theory and Practice, and an Education Specialist in Educational Leadership, Curriculum Director from Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. She is currently writing her dissertation for a Doctorate in Education from ASU.

In addition to Brasfield receiving a \$1,000 award, her school will receive a core archive of American history books and Gilder Lehrman educational materials.

Nominations for the 2022 History Teacher of the Year are now open. Students, parents, colleagues, and supervisors may nominate K-12 teachers for the award by visiting <https://bit.ly/2XsbEbp>. The deadline for nominations is March 30, 2022.

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